U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

and October 22, 2024

MR. NOAH SCHEER
[redacted]

FOIPA Request No.: 1605529-000
Subject: 064-HQ-4963
(Living Conditions in Nicaragua)

Dear Mr. Scheer:

The FBI has completed its review of records subject to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) that are responsive to your request. The enclosed documents were reviewed under the FOIPA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552		Section 552a
☐ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☐ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

22 pages were reviewed and 20 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a search of the places reasonably expected to have records. For more information about records searches and the standard search policy, see the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum General Information Section.

This is the final release of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, Other Government Agency(ies) [OGA(s)]. This information has been referred to the OGA(s) listed below for review and direct response to you. Inquiries regarding your OGA direct referral(s), designated within the release as "Referral/Direct," may be directed to:

United States Army - Main FOIA
Freedom of Information Act Office
Records Management and Declassification Agency
9301 Chapek Road
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5605

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Additional information about the FOIPA can be found at www.fbi.gov/foia. Should you have questions regarding your request, please feel free to contact foipaquestions@fbi.gov. Please reference the FOIPA Request number listed above in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If possible, please provide a copy of your original request and this response letter with your appeal.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at foipaquestions@fbi.gov. The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosures

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

(i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.

(ii) **Intelligence Records**. To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

(i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.

(ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

(iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C.§ § 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C.§ 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

(i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records or administrative records of previous FOIPA requests.

a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
b. *Reference Entity Records*- created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation

(ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.

(iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.

(iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative "FBI file." An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1605529-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2
Page 6 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 7 ~ Referral/Direct;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

attendance. A number of fairly good high schools are maintained and run by the Catholic church in Managua and Granada. A government-operated university, The Central University of Managua, is attended by Nicaraguans, most of who study law and medicine. A university is also situated in Granada. Except for the American school, all instruction is given in the Spanish language. Classes in the American School are conducted in the English language.

The unit of currency in Nicaragua is the Cordoba. The official rate of exhange is five cordobas to one U.S. dollar. A black market in dollars is in existence in Managua. The rate varies but is usually 5.60 cordobas to 5.70 cordobas, depending upon the demand for dollars. Embassy personnel are prohibited from dealing in the black market. Money may be changed at the Banco Nacional de Nicaragua (National Bank of Nicaragua). A branch of the Bank of London and South America is maintained in Managua.

THE AMERICAN COLONY - The American Colony in Nicaragua is very small and outside of four or five families consists entirely of the Embassy Staff.

THE NICARAGUANS - The Nicaraguan people are very friendly and in a great part extremely pro-American. They are cooperative and give all assistance within their power to any visiting American. It is agent's belief that a thorough knowledge of the Spanish language is not necessary inasmuch as almost all Nicaraguans of the better class speak perfect English.

Respectfully,

SIS #232 - Jack E. Shaw

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

August 17, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: POST REPORT FOR MANAGUA, NICARAGUA;
Living Conditions Nicaragua - Administrative

Dear Sir:

There is attached hereto two copies of a post report prepared on Managua, Nicaragua.

Very truly yours,

HARRY F. CLIFFORD,
L. A.

Attachment

HFC/tfc

1 ENCL.

RECORDED
164-4263-3
F B I
32 AUG 24 1944

COPIES DESTROYED
9 08 OCT 20 1961

35 AUG 26 1944

POST REPORT FOR MANAGUA, NICARAGUA;
NICARAGUA - ADMINISTRATIVE

I - GENERAL INFORMATION

Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America in territorial expanse, being bordered on the North by Honduras, and on the South by Costa Rica. Except for Honduras, it is the least developed of the countries in Central America, and the living conditions are the poorest. This is partially due to the fact that the capital cities of all other Central American countries are located at an altitude, where the climate is more enjoyable and healthful, while Managua is located almost at sea level, with all the drawbacks of a tropical town.

The intervention of the United States Marine Expeditionary force in Managua at the end of the 1920's still has great influence on the country. In many ways it is more Americanized than most countries of Latin America, and has very close ties with the United States.

Geographically, the country is divided by mountains, jungles, rivers, and swamps into two almost separate parts, the East and the West Coasts. At the present time the only practical means of communication between the Western part of the country and the Eastern part is by air. It is contemplated that within a few years a road will be built to provide transportation, and even at the present time, if necessary, the trip could be made with considerable hardship by river boat, and mule back.

The Eastern part of the country, most jungle, banana and rubber plantations, is practically undeveloped; it is populated to a great extent by Indians and persons of Negro blood of Jamaican ancestry, and a great deal of Jamaican-dialect-English is spoken in that area. The Western part of the country is much more developed than the Eastern part, and is the center of most activities in Nicaragua.

The American Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua, in August, 1944, is organized under the supervision of an Ambassador; there are six regular Foreign Service Officers, and five Auxiliary Foreign Service Officers; there are approximately twenty clerks working in the Embassy, and various messengers and chauffeurs, employed locally.

There is attached to the Embassy an "Acting Military Attaché", a Major in rank, who is under the jurisdiction of the Military Attaché for Central America, with headquarters in Guatemala City; there was formerly attached to the Embassy an Assistant Naval

ENCLOSURE

Attaché, who was under the jurisdiction of the Naval Attaché for Central America, with headquarters in Guatemala; this office was abandoned early in 1944, and there is now no Naval representative in Managua.

The Office of the Legal Attaché is in a building located next door to the Embassy proper, which is also occupied by other Embassy Offices; there is one Special Agent, the Legal Attaché, and one male Stenographer attached to this office. A locally-hired Nicaraguan is used for janitor, messenger, and chauffeur services.

II - DESCRIPTION OF THE POST CITY

A) Managua and its environs

Managua is situated in the "West Coast" half of the country; it is approximately midway between the northern and southern boundaries of Nicaragua, and approximately thirty miles directly East of the Pacific Ocean, being separated from the Coast by a range of mountains. The city lies on low land only 130 feet above sea level; the city is located at the very edge of Lake Managua, a body of water 38 miles long and 14 to 20 miles wide, which is not used regularly for bathing, boating, or fishing because of winds, filth, and other conditions. The wind, which blows across the sun-heated Lake Managua, tends to increase the temperature in the city itself. The city was almost completely destroyed by earthquake in 1931, but was rebuilt on its former plans, with old-style Spanish-type houses packed tightly together, and very narrow streets.

Behind the city is a hill upon which is situated the Presidential Palace; behind this there begins a range of mountains, rising to about 3,000 feet.

B) Climatic Conditions

Managua is a tropical town and has a tropical climate at all times. However, during the "dry" season - in December, January, February, and part of March - when no rain falls, and the Trade Winds blow, the weather is tolerably cool for the tropics, and not very humid. The "rainy season", strictly speaking, lasts from June to November, during which time there are almost daily rainstorms. The average rainfall is between 65 and 100 inches, considerably more than that of any city in the United States; for example, Mobile 61.6, and New Orleans, 57.5. However, during the dry season, practically all vegetation dies, and dust is blown by the wind to penetrate homes, offices, and buildings. Average mean <u>indoor</u> temperature is about 80 degrees F., ranging throughout the year from 70 to 87 degrees. The nights are about ten degrees cooler, except from March to June. A sheet is usually

enough bed covering at night in Managua.

C) Transportation Facilities

At the present time, for all practical purposes, the only way to reach Managua from outside the country is by air, with connections by Pan American Airways from several international airports in the United States, and by TACA (Transportes Aereos Centro-Americanos) in a flight from Miami in about six hours. There is also service by these airlines from the South, and TACA maintains internal air service to other points within Nicaragua. In peacetime, ships regularly call at the Pacific port of Corinto, which is about 87 miles from Managua by government-owned railroad, and also at Puerto Cabezas on the Caribbean Coast, with air connection to Managua. In the dry season, a rather hazardous road trip by automobile is barely possible from the Southern border of Mexico, through Guatemala and El Salvador to Managua, on the Pan American Highway.

Within Nicaragua, the government controlled railraod connects the Pacific seaport of Corinto with León, Managua, and Granada, the three principal cities of the country. The Pan American Highway in dry weather can be utilized to travel from the Northern border of the country to the Southern border with comparative ease; within 60 miles of Managua, this highway is as good as most State and Country highways in the United States, since it is all-weather. The highways of the country are being developed as rapidly as possible, and within a few years all parts of the country should be connected by fairly good highways. Within the country it is also possible to travel by boat on the rivers and lakes, and by burro or horse through the mountains and jungles.

Within the City of Managua, there is no public transportation system to speak of; and there are no street cars, and there are a few dirty and aged busses, giving very poor service; they are never used by Americans. There are a few automobile-taxis, which are available at exorbitant rates. The main system of public transportation is by "coche" - an antiquated carriage drawn by two horses, seating about four people, and costing from 10 to 25 cents (U.S.). (The price doubles when it rains.)

It is advisable for all Americans to own private automobiles, since public transportation is so inadequate; automobiles are scarce and difficult to buy in Managua at the present time; for example, a four-year old Ford or Chevrolet in only fair condition would probably sell for from US$1,500.00 to $1,800.00 Personnel attached to the Embassy may bring in their personally-owned automobile without paying the Custom duty, which is comparatively high; the Office of the Legal Attaché is provided with a Bureau owned automobile, purchased locally, which has been

found to be absolutely indispensible for the operation of the official business of the office.

D) Laws Affecting United States Citizens

Personnel attached to the Embassy are afforded almost diplomatic protection, with regard to local laws. While their baggage is searched upon entering the country, they are practically immune from any other regulation. They are afforded the right to import food, etc. without paying duty, need not register with the Police, need not pay local taxes, are provided with diplomatic license plates for their automobiles, etc. Persons not attached to the Embassy must conform to all the laws of Nicaragua; the Customs Laws are strict and rigidly enforced; high duties must be paid on the importation of almost any article. Americans, as well as all other foreigners, must register with the Office of Defensa Nacional, must receive permission from that office to travel to other parts of the country, and must pay various fees connected with registration. Before a visa can be granted by a Nicaraguan Consul in a foreign country, he must first receive permission from both the Office of Defensa Nacional and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by cable, at the expense of the visa applicant. All foreigners, whether officials or otherwise, must first receive permission of the above two bodies before being allowed to depart from Nicaragua. All cameras, guns, etc., should be registered with the Office of Defensa Nacional, and a permit received for the use of same.

It should be noted that the Nicaraguan Government at the present time is, for all intents and purposes, a dictatorship, with the President interested financially in almost all business transacted in the country. The government is very friendly to the United States, and official personnel are treated very well. For undercover personnel, the situation would be more difficult, since the President might expect a share of the profits of the concern in question, and would most certainly be interested personally in many aspects of the business done; any cover where no actual business was transacted would most probably be completely worthless.

American firms located in Nicaragua would include representatives of the larger American oil companies, agencies of heavy machinery manufacturers, the Grace and United Fruit Lines, two insurance agencies, automobile agencies, Pan American Airways, and American companies operating mines and coffee plantations in the interior of the country.

The American colony in Managua is comparatively small

at the present time, and each person in the colony knows everyone else, and usually is very much interested in every one else's business, recreational and social activities. This would be particularly difficult for a person in an undercover capacity.

III - LIVING CONDITIONS

A) Residence Facilities

There are two hotels in Managua, which are not first class hotels, but which are the best in the country. Both are run by American citizens; their facilities, food and services are not very good, but are regarded as adequate under the circumstances. It would cost from about US$75.00 to $100.00 per person for food and meals in one of these hotels. There are smaller, lower class hotels, where prices would be cheaper, but the conditions in such hotels would not be deemed very advisable for Americans.

There are a few native pensions or boarding houses in Managua, but none could be recommended for American personnel.

There are no apartments as such available in Managua. The problem of finding a house in Managua is a difficult one, and generally there are few available. A person is usually forced to take the best available house. There is no residential section as such in Managua, since a block of fair houses may be completely surrounded by hovels, old cemeteries, or by the worst parts of town. Unfurnished one-story patio houses with from six to eight rooms rent for US$50-100 per month; larger houses rent for from US$75 to 140 per month. Inadequately furnished houses in the same range, when available, rent for from US$100 to $300 per month.

Most of the houses of Managua are not equipped with baths, but cold-water showers are provided. There is a minimum of screening, and during certain seasons of the year flies, mosquitoes, and other insects invade the houses in swarms. The electricity is 110 volts, 60 cycles, but varies considerably. The water supply is inadequate, and the water must be boiled for drinking. Recently the electric service has been most irregular, and a supply of lamps and candles should be available at all times. Early in 1944, water was unavailable for periods as long as a week at a time in some parts of the city; generally the water throughout the city is turned off at 9:00 P.M. Cooking is generally done by kerosene and electricity at a comparatively high cost; some cooking is done by locally-made charcoal. Servants wages run from $7.00 to $15.00 per month, but several servants are usually needed to run even a small home.

Should one wish a radio, heater, stove, or electric fan, it should be brought from the United States. Locally-made, and most unsatisfactory, furniture can be obtained at comparatively high prices.

B) Food

Beef and poultry can be obtained in Managua at fairly high prices. From time to time there is no beef available and, even when available it is very scarce. Tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, corn, stringbeans, spinach, potatoes, rice, squash, and certain native vegetables are available in season. Bananas, oranges, grapefruit, limes, figs, avocados, watermelons, papayas, mangos, and pineapples are available almost the whole year around. There is no supply of such fruits and vegetables as lettuce, celery, apples, pears, peaches, and other fresh fruits. In peace-time such vegetables were imported from the United States, but this is now impossible. There is an irregular supply of milk available in Managua but this should be thoroughly boiled before it can be drunk. The water supply in Managua is erratic and all water must be boiled before it can be consumed.

There is a fair assortment of American food available in Managua the prices for this food range from three to ten times the price in the United States. Persons attached to the Embassy may import food free of duty directly from the United States or from Panama, but this entails an outlay of a considerable amount of money and also the food takes several months to arrive in Managua.

C) Clothing

The lightest clothing possible should be brought to Managua, and it is best that this clothing be of washable types. White duck, linen and seersucker suits are the best for this climate. Palm beach and tropical suits may be worn in the cooler season and at night, but they are too heavy for general day-time use. A person attached to the Embassy would have use for a summer tuxedo. Women coming to Managua should bring cool porous wash-able dresses, maybe of cotton or other light and inexpensive material. Suits may be purchased locally, some of them made from imported American or other foreign materials, but the tailoring is poor at best and the prices are at least 100% higher than similar suits would be in the United States. It is suggested that all shoes be brought from the United States when coming to Nicaragua. In Managua there is no laundry as it is known in the United States. However, each home usually employs a laundress to wash not only the clothing used in the house, but suits, etc.

There is one dry cleaning plant in Managua whose work is very bad and whose prices are extremely high.

D) Health

An American in Nicaragua must take constant health precautions, and few Americans are able to live without constantly being ill. Prevailing diseases include malaria, which effects more than sixty percent of the population of Nicaragua, amoebic dysentery, which is widespread among children and adults, and bacillary dysentery which is also common. Typhoid, paratyphoid and smallpox exist, and from time to time assume epidemic proportions.

Stomach poisoning, of a less serious nature than dysentery is extremely common, as are various types of fungus poisoning which usually effect the face, hands, and feet. It has been found that among Americans in Nicaragua there is a great tendency to be ill with streptococcus, mouth infections, and also trench mouth.

There also exists in Nicaragua and in Managua various other types of tropical diseases many of which are fatal, particularly to children.

The incidents of illness among both clerks and officers at the American Embassy, where constant health precautions are taken and the best medical care received has been heavy for several years.

It is advisable that a person coming to Nicaragua be vaccinated for smallpox, typhoid, paratyphoid, yellow fever, tetanus, and colera.

There are two or three fairly good doctors in Managua and there are several good dentists, all of whom were educated in the United States. There is a hospital run by American Baptist missionaries, but in case of serious illness it is deemed very advisable for the person to go either to Panama, Guatemala, or to the United States. There are available in Managua all the necessary types of medicines but they sell at extremely high prices.

As an example of the incidents of illness in Managua, there are a few Americans who have lived in Managua for several years and who have never been seriously ill. However, it is believed that the majority of Americans have been almost constantly

ill or semi-ill from a variety of diseases such as stomach infections, dysentery, malaria, streptococcus infections, or a combination of several of these. One married man who has lived in Managua with his wife and child for a little over two years estimates that his average doctor bill while in Managua is from 10 to 20 dollars U.S. a month.

A person coming to Managua should bring quinine and atabrine, vitamin pills, calcium pills, and as large a supply of general home remedies as possible. It is noted that the post report prepared by the Embassy for the State Department states "Americans coming to Managua must be content to accomplish less in working and living than in a cooler climate and, should whenever possible, plan to take annual leaves of absence either in the United States or in cooler climates."

E) Recreation

Generally speaking there is little opportunity for entertainment or recreation in Managua. There are one or two social clubs where persons may dance on weekends. There is a country club with a fair golf course. The hotels are equipped with small swimming pools, which are usually not kept in a sanitary condition. It is possible to rent bicycles and take a trip up into the hills but the excessive heat makes such exercise undesirable. A person with an automobile may drive to the neighboring towns located at higher altitudes than Managua for recreation or picnic purposes. There is in existence in Managua an American Library which is fairly well stocked with books written in English. There are three low-class moving pictures theatres in Managua all of which show old American and foreign pictures.

F) Local Churches

There exist in Managua a variety of Catholic churches all of which conduct services in the Spanish language. There is a Protestant Service held in English once every two weeks.

G) Education

There has recently been organized in Managua an American School which gives instructions to children, most of whom are of American parents. At the present time this school has not been in existence long enough to determine its efficiency. It has been impossible to find regular language teachers in Managua and the usual practice is to attempt to find some person who knows both Spanish and English and who will give lessons in the Spanish language. There are several fair elementary and high schools in Managua and neighboring towns, many of which are run by the Catholic church; all of their instruction is in the Spanish

language. There are government-run universities in Managua, Granada, and León but they are not well organized, and courses are few and their activities are presently suspended for political reasons.

IV - MISCELLANEOUS

A) Financial Matters

The Nicaraguan Cordoba is officially "pegged" at the rate of five Cordobas for one U.S. dollar. Personnel attached to the Embassy receive this rate from the National Bank. However, persons not attached to the Embassy who change dollars for cordobas at the national bank receive up to ten percent less because of taxes and bank charges. There is in existence in all of Nicaragua a so-called "black market". The rate for dollars on this market is approximately 5.60. This black market is not only tolerated but is supported by the government and the national bank. It is the usual practice for Americans working in a private capacity to change their dollars on the black market and thereby obtain a considerably higher rate of exchange. By order of the Ambassador all persons attached to the Embassy are compelled to change their checks at the national bank.

B) Mail and Postage Rates

The forwarding of mail by ship is impractical at the present time. However, airmail service is good and it costs only eight cents American to send an ordinary airmail letter to the United States.

C) Post Practices Concerning Private Use of Steamer Pouch.

No objection has been encountered to the sending of personal effects from the United States to Managua through the Steamer Pouch for persons attached to the Embassy. The full postage from the point in the United States to Managua should be paid by the person sending the package. However, within Managua it is the practice not to be so lenient, and Embassy officials refuse to allow anything to be sent through the Steamer Pouch unless it is official business or unless it arrived in Nicaragua through the Steamer Pouch from the United States.

D) Pharmaceutical Products

There are available in Managua almost all the necessary types of pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, drugs, etc. However, one must pay an exorbitant price for them and it would be best if a person coming to Managua from the United States brought with him as much as possible of such products.

E) Unusual Local Conditions

Managua is probably the worst capital city in the Western Hemisphere, if not in the world. It is known that both Asuncion, Paraguay, and Tegucigalpa, Honduras, are bad, but it is doubtful if they are worse than Managua. Many cities both in North and South America have what might be called slums but in Managua there is no separation of the residential districts from the slum districts. The climate is not only unpleasant but unhealthful and conditions in general are such that life in Managua is usually exceedingly unpleasant.

Regarding the possibility of female Bureau employees working in Managua the following information is set out:

In the past the Embassy has had considerable trouble with its women employees. Many of them have become seriously ill and others have been nervously affected by living the rather dull and uncomfortable life of Managua, and have had to return to the United States. At the present time there are ten female employees of the United States Government working for the Embassy or in offices attached to the Embassy. All of them are American citizens and only two were born in Nicaragua. Several of these women are veterans in the Foreign Service and have lived in undesirable places in various parts of the world; the majority, however, are new employees at their first or second post outside of the United States. While they are subject to the usual illnesses prevalent in Managua it has been found that the present staff of female employees working in the Embassy has not presented such a problem as was formerly presented. It is believed that much of the improvement is due to the fact that there are a sufficient number of female employees so that they may seek recreation and companionship within their own group and are thus not subject to becoming morose.

It has been noted that the career officers of the United States Embassy as a group are inclined to look with disfavor upon employees of other government agencies and especially on clerical employees of both the State Department and other government agencies. This is especially noticeable in social affairs and since the foreign colony in Managua is so small this attitude makes for ill feeling. Recently the situation has improved to a considerable extent, but an employee of any other government agency except the State Department, and any clerical employee definitely must "prove himself" before being accepted socially by the State Department career officers.

ROUGH DRAFT

Washington, D. C.
May 16, 1946

LIVING CONDITIONS REPORT
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Managua is the capital of Nicaragua, the largest country in Central America. Nicaragua is bounded on the north by Honduras and Costa Rica on the south. The capital city is located in the western half of Nicaragua, about seventy-five miles from the Pacific Port of Corinto. Managua is located on the edge of Lake Managua, and is approximately 130 feet above sea level. The population is about 100,000.

The climate of Managua is tropical. There are two distinct seasons through the year, the wet and dry. The wet season extends from May until November. The dry season extends from December to May. During the dry season practically all vegetation dries up due to the intense heat from the sun's rays and the greenness disappears from the countryside. It is also very dusty during this season due to the lack of rainfall. During the wet season rain falls almost daily. At times the streets are completely covered as a result of heavy showers. However, this condition usually does not last long. It is somewhat cooler during the wet season. It should be noted that the drying of laundry is sometimes considerably delayed during the wet season due to the frequent showers. For sleeping, a sheet is usually sufficient covering throughout the year. A light blanket is sometimes useful during the wet season.

The City of Managua has no transportation to speak of. A few old and dilapidated buses are operated in the city, however, they are not utilized by the American colony. Horse drawn carriages, commonly known as "Coachies" are very abundant. The fare depends upon the distance carried but usually costs about one cordoba (U.S. $.20) per person. It is interesting to note that when it rains the fare is doubled. Frequently the coachman will

EX-12 RECORDED 64-4263-4
50 JUN 6-1946 107

allow the rider to fix the price with the thought in mind that he will collect a larger sum. However, it is best to arrange a price before hiring a coachie. Taxis are also available. A few taxi stands are maintained in the downtown section of town and may be secured at any hour during the day up until 9 or 10 P.M. Telephone requests for a taxi may be made which are promptly answered if taxis are available. The average ride in town costs about seven cordobas (U.S.$1.40). A trip to Las Mercedes Airport costs twenty cordobas (U.S.$4.00), as does a trip to Las Piedracitas, the Ambassador's residence.

Nicaragua is served by two international airlines, Pan American Airways, and Transportes Aereos Centro-Americanos (TACA) which run frequent international flights daily. TACA also serves Nicaragua domestically as does Lineas Aereas de Nicaragua (La Nica), a subsidiary of Pan American Airways. Both of these airlines connect Managua with the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, and with several mining towns throughout Nicaragua. La Nica operates a flight to Corinto, the Pacific Port of Nicaragua. A railroad, the Ferrocarril del Pacifico de Nicaragua (Pacific Railroad of Nicaragua), is owned and operated by the Nicaraguan Government. It serves the seaport of Corinto and the larger cities of Nicaragua such as Leon, Managua, and Granda. It also serves a number of smaller towns throughout Nicaragua. The fares charged are low and the service poor. The equipment is old and the only accommodations available are coaches. Coaches are either first, second, or third class. Nicaragua has a few good highways connecting Managua with several outlying towns. The Pan American Highway is an all weather road running from the northern border of Honduras to the southern border of Costa Rica. Travel overland to the East Coast of Nicaragua may be made by river and lake boats or by horse or burro through the jungles and mountains. Such trips are very long and arduous.

Due to the inadequacy of the transportation in Managua an automobile is a decided asset. Persons employed in the Embassy may

import a car duty free. Gasoline is usually always available and costs about twenty-two cents a gallon. Automobiles usually have a high re-sale value. However, parts, tires, and tubes are expensive and hard to find, but the situation should shortly be remedied due to current production trends in the United States.

The housing situation in Managua is rather acute at the present time due to the large number of foreigners presently living there. All houses are built with patios to allow a free circulation of air. Usually houses are constructed of adobe bricks covered with plaster or cement. Rents are rather high for a decent house, running from sixty to one hundred dollars, and more, for an unfurnished house, and ninety to two hundred dollars for a furnished house. Screens are helpful to comfortable living. Screened bedrooms are especially desirable which obviates the necessity of using a "mosquito net" for sleeping. The water supply at times is inadequate. Water is usually scarce following the noon hour. The water is usually cut off about 11:30 P.M. each day. The electricity is 110 volts, 60 cycles, alternating current. Electricity is fairly constant, however, the system breaks down occasionally. Candles or lamps should be maintained for emergency lighting. Cooking is usually done by char-coal on old fashioned type wood stoves. This, of course, is time consuming but adequate. A hot plate comes in handy for preparing light snacks. Servants are necessary for the proper maintenance of a house. Cooks and maids are available from seven to fifteen dollars a month. Food is supplied them, aside from their salary, at a cost of about thirty cents per day for each servant.

There are two hotels in Managua that are adequate for Americans. They are the best in Managua but are far from what one usually finds in a good hotel in the United States. The rooms are simply furnished. The hotels mentioned above are the Gran Hotel and the Lido Palace Hotel. The daily rate is between thirty and thirty-five cordobas per day (U.S.$6-7), but monthly rates may be obtained for about one hundred dollars. It should be

noted that the Lido Palace Hotel is a little more expensive than the Gran Hotel. However, more people stay at the Gran Hotel due to its more centralized location. The food is adequate in the hotels, but the quality varies from time to time. It is advisable to avoid uncooked vegetables such as lettuce and unpeeled fruits and vegetables that are grown in the ground. Water should be boiled and cooled before drinking. Beef and poultry are usually always available. Flour and sugar are sometimes scarce. The ordinary vegetables such as string-beans, potatoes, carrots, etc., are usually available. Oranges, bananas, papayas, mangoes, and pineapple are always available. Fresh fruits such as apples and pears are not available locally. If imported, their prices are exorbitant. Milk is available but is usually not good for drinking. It is boiled and used in cooking and served in coffee. Powdered milk is usually used on cereals. Large quantities of canned foods are available but sell for extremely high prices. Canned foods may be purchased from the Panama Rail-road Commissary in Panama and imported into Nicaragua by Embassy personnel duty free. A considerable saving may be realized by making such purchases through the commissary.

Clothing should be of a light and washable material. For men seersucker, cord, and other washable suits are very satisfactory for every day wear. A white palm beach suit is practical for evening wear as are light tropical worsted suits. The latter two mentioned types of suits are usually too heavy for day wear. A white dinner jacket is necessary for one attached to the Embassy. Black dinner jackets are worn correctly. If possessed one might easily include both in his wardrobe. All clothing, where possible, should be purcahsed in the U.S. Shirts and suits of American manufacture, when available, are very expensive. Local clothing may be purchased at high prices but do not measure up to American styles or tailoring. Shoes should be brought from the States also. Locally made shoes are satisfactory if properly fitted. They run from ten to fifteen dollars. Sport clothes are useful such

as alacks, sport shirts, etc. A rain coat is also very useful during the wet season. It is advisable to purchase all clothing in the States before departing for Managua.

For women, light washable dresses are most satisfactory for everyday wear. A dinner dress and an evening gown should be brought to Managua for certain social functions. Silk dresses are too warm for every day wear but are correctly worn at social affairs in the evening. Dressed may be made to order in Managua but material is expensive. Shoes should be brought from the States. Sport shoes come in handy in Managua. Cosmetics, stocking, etc., are available in Managua at much higher prices than in the United States. In March, 1946, Nylon stocking sold for nineteen. cordobas (U.S.$3.80) per pair. Such items are not always available, however.

Laundries do not exist in Managua as known in the U.S. In private homes a laundress is employed who does the washing and ironing. The salary ~~for~~ paid a laundress is usually about ten dollars per month. For persons living in a hotel arrangements made be made to have laundry attended to for a resonable charge. Dry cleaning may be found in Managua, but the work is poor as ~~compared~~ Compared to that done in the States and is rather expensive. Ex. Dry cleaning a suit six cordobas (U.S.$1.20).

Health conditions in Managua are relatively poor. Malaria, amoebic dysentery, amoebas, and common dysentery are quite commom, and should be guarded against. Vinson's Disease, or Trench Mouth , as it is commonly known as, it commom. Rashes and fungi are also quite common in Managua. It is necessary for persons going to Managua to be innoculated for Tetanus, Smallpox, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, and Paratyphoid. There are a few American educated physicians in Managua. Likewise, there are two or three American educated dentists. A Baptist Hospital is maintained in Managua by American Baptist Missionaries. This hospital is headed by Dr. Pixley, an American, who is considered to be a good doctor. A local hospital known as the General Hospital is maintained by the Nicaraguan Government. It is not

considered adequate for Americans. For any serious illness or operations which are not of an emergency nature it is best to travel to the United States, Panama, or Guatemala, where hospitals are well equipped for all types of cases. It should be noted that the hospitals in Managua are not properly equipped for the handling of all types of cases. Vitamin and calcium tablets may be taken to advantage.

For recreation there is available a country club known as the Nejapa Country Club which has a nine hole golf course and two tennis courts. For a person connected with the Embassy membership is four dollars per month. Eash of the two hotels previously mentioned in this report have swimming pools which may be used free of charge. The water is changed in these ppols once or twice weekly. They may be used free of charge. A bowling alley is open to the public which have two alleys. They may be rented at a reasonable rate by the hour. Bicycles may be rented for a nominal sum. There are two social clubs operating in Managua at the present time, the Club Terraza (Terrace Club), and the Victory Club. One night each week, on Saturday and Friday, an orchestra plays at each of these clubs. A gentleman is required to be a member of these clubs in order to frequent them, however, the Victory Club is lax in this regard. The better element of Nicaraguan society frequents the Terraza Club as do the Americans.

There are a number of Catholic churches located throughout Managua, the largest of which is the Cathedral situated in front of Parque Central (Central Park). The Baptis Mission conducts services in English twice a month. Services in Catholic churches are conducted in the Spanish language.

There is located in Managua an American School employing two American teachers. The school is a grade school and is attended by Nicaraguans and children of American residents in Managua. It has been organized for about two years and a nominal tuition fee is charged for

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JES:HS

May 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CARSON:

RE: LIVING CONDITIONS IN NICARAGUA

HOUSING - It is virtually impossible to rent a furnished apartment in Managua. Hotel accomodations are available but under present conditions leave much to be desired. The average cost of hotel rooms with meals is around $80 per month. This figure does not include laundry and other incidental expenses which run fairly high. The agent's opinion is that the best possible solution is to live with some member of the State Department who usually brings his furniture with him. House rents are high agent presently paying $125 a month for an unfurnished three bedroom house.

PRICES - Prices in Nicaragua for almost all commodities are higher than in other Central American countries. Food prices are especially high because Nicaragua produces only a small part of the goods to consume.

CLOTHING - Clothing is not available in Nicaragua it being shipped in and brought from the United States. Nicaragua is tropical and the temperature very rarely drops below 85. White linen and palm beach are accepted wearing apparel and anyone going to Nicaragua should make sure that all his clothes are washable inasmuch as there are no dry cleaning establishments.

FOOD - Food in Nicaragua is on the whole very good although relatively expensive, meals costing anywhere from $2 to $2.50 in the better eating places.

CLIMATE - Nicaragua has two separate and distinct seasons, dry and wet. In the dry season the dust is so thick that it is impossible to see more than two blocks. In the wet season it rains continually and it is impossible to drive a car off the pavement. It is not deemed advisable for anyone with a throat ailment to go to Nicaragua because of the terrific dust storms.

FREE ENTRY - The Office of the Legal Attach enjoys free entry and commissary privileges from the local United States Army detachment where toilet articles, cigarettes and articles of that nature may be purchased at a nominal ~~price~~.

64-4963
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 28 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPIES DESTROYED
9 08 OCT 20 1961

RECORDED

70 MAY 29 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS